

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4197

PASS AGRICULTURE

E. O. 11652: DECLAS 12-31-75

TAGS: EAGR OCON

SUBJ: OECD AGRICULTURE MINISTERIAL

REF STATE 57162; TOKYO 3826

1. SUMMARY: GOJ REP, VICE MINISTER KAMENAGA, TO OECD AGRICULTURE MINISTERIAL IS EXPECTED TO SPEAK ON AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURE; SHIFTING OF PROGRAM EMPHASIS FROM ECONOMIC GROWTH TO " WELFARE-ORIENTATION;" SELECTED EXPANSION OF DOMESTIC PRODUCTION AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE; PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT; AND SUPPORT OF OECD. END SUMMARY.

2. AG ATT LEARNED FROM INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY OFFICIAL SOME OF THE VIEWS GOJ REP IS EXPECTED TO EXPRESS AT OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING AS FOLLOWS:

A. AGRUCULTURAL STRUCTURE - THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE MOBILITY IN JAPANESE FARM POPULATION. SIZE OF FARMS REMAINS AT ABOUT 1.1

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HECTARE. 12 PERCENT OF FARMERS ARE 65 YEARS OLD OR OLDER. AN INCREASING NUMBER OF FARM FAMILIES RECEIVE A MAJOR PORTION OF THEIR INCOME FROM NON- FARM ACTIVITY - OVER 58 PERCENT IN 1971 RECEIVED MORE THAN ONE- HALF THEIR INCOME FROM NON- FARM SOURCES. THE CONSLUSION IS EXPECTED TO BE THAT LITTLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TO DATE TOWARD RESTRUCTURING JAPANESE AGRICULTURE, SAKAMOTO INDICATED MITI PLAN IS STILL IN EARLY FORMULATIVE STAGES, AND THAT ANY ACTIVITY REGARDIN FOREST PRODUCTS WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT JOINTLY BETWEEN MITI AND MAF. THIS HAS NOT YET TAKEN PLACE. SAKAMOTO INDICATED MAF FAVORS ACTIONS WHICH WOULD STABILIZE DOMESTIC PRICES. FOLLOWING CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION:

A) ROADS SHOULD BE BUILT TO DOMESTIC FOREST AREAS, TO PERMIT ADDITIONAL HARVESTS AND SHIPMENTS WITH MINIMUM TIME LAG WHEN NECESSARY TO STABILIZE PRICES;

B) ADDITIONAL QUANTITY DOMESTIC LOGS SHOULD BE HARVESTED FOR STOCKPILE;

C) SAWN LUMBER (DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN) SHOULD BE STOCK-PILED;

D) CAPACITY OF LOG PONDS, USED TO STORE LOGS, SHOULD BE INCREASED. (SAKAMOTO NOTED THIS DESIRABLE BUT VERY EXPENSIVE.)

4. EMBASSY OBTAINED COPY WHITE PAPER ON FORESTRY (IN JAPANESE). WILL CABLE SUMMARY TRANSLATIONS AS PREPARED.
SHOESMITH

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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